

Kashmir

The Kashmir dispute has been before the United Nations since December 30, 1947, when India lodged a complaint that Pakistan nationals and tribesmen had invaded Kashmir which, it held, had legally acceded to India. India's action was followed by a counter-complaint by Pakistan.¹

On January 1, 1949, the United Nations brought about a cease-fire and for the past four years United Nations observers have watched the cease-fire line. So far, however, the United Nations has been unable to effect the withdrawal of troops or to bring about a political settlement.

The dispute was discussed in the Security Council during 1948 and 1949 and the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) passed resolutions which were the basis of subsequent efforts to reach a settlement. UNCIP was unable to find a solution, however, and, in March 1950, the Security Council replaced it with a United Nations Representative who was to act as mediator in bringing about demilitarization preparatory to a plebiscite.

Sir Owen Dixon, the first Representative, was unable to arrange a settlement, either on the basis of a plebiscite in the whole of Kashmir, or on the basis of partition combined with a plebiscite in the Vale — the area most in dispute. Between June, 1951 and June, 1952, Dr. Frank Graham, the second Representative, succeeded, on the basis of twelve proposals, in narrowing the differences down to the question of demilitarization and related problems.

During the year under review Dr. Graham made further efforts to enable India and Pakistan to find a solution. In December, 1952, following talks in New York and Geneva, the Security Council passed a resolution calling on the parties to reach agreement on demilitarization on the basis of "bracketed figures" for troops to remain on each side of the cease-fire line. India would not accept this resolution as a groundwork for further negotiation, asserting that it went beyond the scope of the UNCIP resolutions and challenged India's fundamental contention that India alone has the right to maintain troops in the State. India was prepared to enter into further discussions, however, and in January and February Dr. Graham held another round of talks in New York and Geneva. These were unsuccessful and in March he submitted his fifth report to the Security Council.

The Council has not yet acted on this report. Shortly after it was received it became known that the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan were prepared to hold direct discussions on Kashmir. These talks were to form part of a more general review of Indo-Pakistan problems undertaken on the initiative of the two Prime Ministers. Their first formal meeting, following preparatory work by officials, was to take place in Karachi in July or August.

Since January 1949 Canada has been one of the nations which have supplied officers from their armed forces to act as military observers in Kashmir. The present Canadian quota is 9 officers.

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 40-42.